

Okemos Public Schools Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan

**Board of Education Resolution Regarding
School Funding by the State of Michigan**

A regular meeting of the board of education of the district was held in the Community Conference Room, in the district, on the 22nd day of April, 2019 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Bolton, President.

Present: Members Bolton, Cavanaugh, Gebara, Lynn, Lyon-Callo, Rodriguez and Wohlford

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Katie Cavanaugh and supported by Melanie Lynn.

Whereas between 2002 and 2015, the total revenue for K-12 public education in Michigan declined by 30%, per pupil funding fell by 22%, and funding for at-risk students declined 60% (all adjusted for inflation); and¹

Whereas Michigan ranks 50th out of the 50 states in school funding growth since 1995; and²

Whereas Michigan ranks last in proficiency growth from 2002 to 2015, and Michigan students, who once performed above average on the National Assessment of Education Progress, now rank near the bottom; and³

Whereas researchers agree that student performance improves as school funding increases; and⁴

Whereas Governor Whitmer's 2020 Michigan Budget includes a \$507 million increase to public school operational funding and redirects \$500.1 million of School Aid Funds back into the K-12 educational system rather than diverting it to the Higher Education budget; and⁵

Whereas Governor Whitmer's 2020 Michigan Budget increases the per pupil funding by \$120 to \$180, helping to reduce the gap between minimum and maximum foundation dollars allowance and reducing the gap between the highest and lowest funded public school districts; and⁶

Whereas Governor Whitmer's 2020 Michigan Budget includes an increase of \$120 million to support the needs of special education students, additional funding of \$102 million for academically

¹ David Arsen, Tanner Delpier, and Jesse Nagel, "Michigan School Finance at the Crossroads: A Quarter Century of State Control," Michigan State University Education Policy Report, January 2019: 1

² Arsen, et al: 78

³ Arsen, et al: 7

⁴ Tanner Delpier, Jesse Nagel, Kelly Stec, Alounso Gilzene, and David Arsen, "Does Money Matter in Education? Reconsidering an Old Question with Reference to Michigan," Michigan State University Education Policy Brief, January 2019

⁵ "Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Recommendation Issue Papers", March 5, 2019, www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/FY20_Exec_Budget_Issue_Papers_648086_7_648301_7.pdf

⁶ "Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Recommendation Issue Papers", March 5, 2019, www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/FY20_Exec_Budget_Issue_Papers_648086_7_648301_7.pdf and "Gretchen Whitmer Has A Dramatic Plan To Send Schools More Money For Needier Kids. What You Need To Know," Chalkbeat.org (March 4, 2019)

at risk and economically disadvantaged students, additional funding for Career and Technical Education programs, and \$24.5 million additional funds to triple the number of state funded literacy coaches; and⁷

Whereas Governor Whitmer's 2020 Michigan Budget's educational funding is based on research of educational needs, and is supported by public school administrators and teachers; and⁸

Whereas increased state educational funding would allow Okemos Public Schools, and other districts, to better prepare our students for the future by better supporting CORE K-12 programming, providing academic and behavioral support for students, updating curricula, and helping to pay for the additional costs of educating students with special needs; and

Whereas Okemos Public Schools stands to gain close to an additional \$800,000 in funding if the 2020 Budget education increases are approved; and

Whereas Michigan law requires public school districts to finalize budgets by June 30th, a task dependent on the finalization of the Michigan Budget; and

Whereas a delay in approving the proposed 2020 Michigan Budget will hurt the Okemos Public School district, as well as other districts, in the ability to plan for the academic year, and will impact decisions regarding staffing, materials, contracts, and student support

Now, therefore, be it resolved the Okemos Public Schools Board of Education insists that the Michigan legislature support K-12 public education by approving the increased education funding as proposed in Governor Whitmer's 2020 Michigan Budget.

Be it further resolved the Okemos Public Schools Board of Education insists that Michigan legislature approve the proposed 2020 Michigan Budget in a timely manner allowing Okemos Public Schools, and other districts, the ability to appropriately plan for and pass our budget by the required June 30th deadline set by Michigan law.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

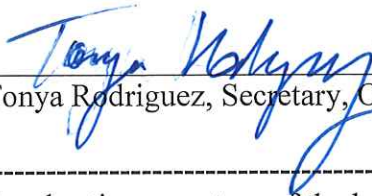
Nays:

Absent:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.


⁷ "Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Recommendation Issue Papers", March 5, 2019, www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/FY20_Exec_Budget_Issue_Papers_648086_7_648301_7.pdf

⁸ Wanda Cook- Robinson, Mike Devault, Randy Liepa, and Nikolai Vitti, "Education Leaders: Whitmer's Education Budget Does Right By Students, Schools", *Detroit Free Press*, March 10, 2019 and "Whitmer Makes Push for Spending Plan," mea.org/whitmer-makes-push-for-spending-plan/, (March 29, 2019)



Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary, Okemos Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting secretary of the board of education of Okemos Public Schools, Ingham County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the board of education at a regular meeting held on April 22, 2019, the original of which resolution is a part of the board's minutes and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public in accordance the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.



Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary, Okemos Board of Education